

CCRG : Chair’s Report : AGM 3 July 2023

The past year has been very busy with most of the Council family trying to catch up on work not done during the various Covid lock downs in 2020/2021. Priorities have also changed along with the makeup of Council, including the Mayor’s office, following the 2022 local government elections.

What has emerged over the past year is a major concern about security for city centre residents, workers and visitors. With government facilitating a large number of new residents into the city centre during Covid the number of homeless and rough sleepers has increased dramatically over the past year as competition for housing increased.

It is great to see our Universities filled with students again and taking their part in making our city centre a lively and interesting place to live in.

A range of submissions have been made and these are available on our website – www.ccr.org.nz/About CCRG/Submissions. Key ones included the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPSUD), Auckland Councils proposals relating to implementation of the NPSUD, the Independent Hearing Panel on Policy Direction for the NPSUD, Councils 2023/24 Annual Plan and the Mayors request for further submissions, the proposed streetscapes surrounding the Karanga a Hape Station, The Waitemata Harbour Connections, the Auckland Light Rail Proposals, and the Governments Re-shaping and Accessible Street Proposals.

Our focus on all of our submissions and work programmes is connected to delivering the City Centre Master Plan and we work with both the Councils Development Programme Office and Eke Panuku in that regard. Key issues addressed over the past year are shown below.

CCMP Outcomes	CCRG Initiatives	Current Situation
<p><u>Tamaki Makaurau – Our Place in the World.</u> Tamaki Makaura / Auckland’s City Centre is a place where we actively recognise and celebrate our historic heritage as a driver of positive change and placemaking.</p>	<p>Aotea Square trees etc. CC Residents Survey Dockline Tram retained</p>	<p>CCRG have met with Councils Arboreal team and support their proposals for replacing trees around Aotea Square. Funding is yet to be allocated. The City Centre Residents Survey highlighted major concerns around safety in the city centre. CCRG supported the efforts of the Dockline Tram team to keep the facility operational in the city centre.</p>
<p><u>Connected City Centre</u> The city centre in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland should have safe, healthy and sustainable travel options both inwards and outwards. This will improve people’s access and choice of transport modes.</p>	<p>Central Rail Loop Auckland Light Rail Waitemata Harbour Crossing. Cycleways</p>	<p>The CRL suffered major setback ex Covid lockdowns so the finish date is now 2026. CCRG supported the need for another Harbour Crossing but preferred a smaller tunnel under the harbour for light vehicle traffic rather than another bridge. CCRG have remained neutral on the Light Rail proposals as there is inadequate information to firm up a position. We did generally support above ground light rail rather than tunnelling. We are very supportive of more safe cycle ways across the city.</p>

<p><u>Accessible and Inclusive City Centre</u> This outcome focuses on an accessible and inclusive city centre. We want a city centre that is welcoming to all in Tāmaki Makaurau.</p>	<p>Queen Street Te Ha Noa Emily Place</p>	<p>CCRG support the Waihorotiu/Queen Street designs that reduce traffic space in favour of more pedestrian and cycling spaces. Using much the same design theme, we are supportive of the Victoria Street (TeHaNoa) programme which will create similar spaces to what is now on Queen Street. CCRG involved in the upgrading of Emily as a community space for all to enjoy.</p>
<p><u>Green City Centre</u> This outcome is about restoring our biodiversity and ecological systems (Mauri Tu). Doing this will deliver a healthy and happy city centre in Tāmaki Makaurau.</p>	<p>Vehicle access to Albert Park is limited to essential requirements. Auckland Transport Emissions Reduction Programme (TERP) Parking Strategy</p>	<p>Continuing dialogue and concerns expressed to the Waitemata Local Board who have responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Albert Park Management Plan – current vehicle parking within the Park by Ventia contractors are in breach of the requirements in this plan. AT’s TERP looks unlikely to deliver any reductions over the next decade and their current Parking Strategy confirms this outcome.</p>
<p><u>Public Life</u> Public space or realm is the glue that holds the city centre together, the canvas for public life. It needs to work well for everyone who spends time in Tāmaki Makaurau. This outcome aims to for everyone in the city centre to feel safe and comfortable, and experience enjoyment.</p>	<p>Elections ACCAB/CCAP CAAH</p>	<p>CCRG held our usual Election Forum for the 2022 local government elections and will hold one for the general elections this year. During 2022 the Auckland City Centre Advisory Board was reviewed and has now been re-established as the City Centre Advisory Panel with an Independent Chair. The panel will meet for the first time in July and current appointments are similar to previous years with the addition of a new Chairperson. CCRG are also working closely with the Communities Against Alcohol Harm to make sure we provide input into Liquor License applications/renewals that impact negatively on city centre residents.</p>
<p><u>Residential City Centre Neighbourhoods</u> Auckland’s city centre is an increasingly popular place to live. As the city centre population grows and matures, this outcome shapes the city centre’s public realm, housing supply and social infrastructure to deliver a highly liveable city centre.</p>	<p>Noise and Security Busking Pedestrian Mall Management TK</p>	<p>While the suggested outcome of a ‘highly liveable city centre’ is a nice statement, the current situation related to security and noise control ensures the opposite. Both of these are the major concerns currently from city centre resident surveys. CCRG have met with the Police, Community Patrols NZ and Heart of the City and will work together to develop a programme that improves both of these negative impacts on residential living. We are also working hard to ensure some consistency between the management of our two key Civic Spaces – Aotea Square and Te Komititanga – the first managed by Auckland Unlimited and the second by Auckland Transport which is very confusing for all.</p>

<p><u>Quality Built Form</u> This outcome aims to deliver a well-designed and planned city centre. It links the City Centre Masterplan and Waterfront Plan to Auckland's statutory planning and design tools.</p>	<p>NPSUD Federal Street</p>	<p>CCRG have worked hard this year to ensure our views about city centre development are taken into account in the National Policy Statement for Urban Development. It is very pleasing to note that the Independent Hearing Panel have recently supported the CCRG's position on intensification in all areas surrounding the city and metropolitan areas in Auckland. This is what will provide affordable and reliable public transport which is essential for Auckland to meet its climate change undertakings. It is very pleasing to see the work on the first section of Federal Street completed.</p>
<p><u>Heritage Defined City Centre</u> We want to increase understanding, protection and conservation of city centre heritage places, landscapes and stories. Our city centre should actively recognise and celebrate Auckland's historic heritage as a driver of positive change and placemaking.</p>	<p>The White Lady St James</p>	<p>The required licences have been renewed and hopefully The White Lady will get to celebrate her 100th birthday on 2048 – currently 75 years and going strong. CCRG are also very supportive of the need to carry out the necessary strengthening and upgrade work on the St. James theatre irrespective of what work may, or may not, get underway with the further residential development proposed for this site.</p>
<p><u>Sustainable City Centre</u> This outcome aims to shape our approach to transport, air quality, water quality and climate change in the city centre. It focuses on the Auckland Climate Action Framework and Outcome 5 of the Auckland Plan 2050.</p>	<p>Climate Change funding initiatives.</p>	<p>CCRG made a submission to Councils Annual Plan proposing a solution to their financial woes. We have suggested an annual parking permit of \$500 for all of the 1.7m registered vehicles in Auckland. The purpose is to fund climate change initiatives funded by the major climate change emitters. This would raise \$850,000,000 per annum, which, on our estimates, would fund all of Councils climate change undertakings in a decade.</p>
<p><u>Prosperous City Centre</u> This outcome sets out practical ways to develop the city centre so it can continue to thrive as an economic centre and cater for the needs of our diverse population. The city centre will enable business and urban development, and deliver a globally-competitive quality of life within a flourishing economy.</p>	<p>Census Meeting with Minister for Auckland. The Cloud RC application</p>	<p>CCRG provided as much support as we could for this year's Census with many of our committee members working on the census. We also met with the Minister for Auckland and suggested that the location of SH1 be shifted back to its original location along SH16 and 18 to reduce vehicle emissions that inevitably blow across the city centre. This would also allow SH1 from Albany to Manukau to be freed up for public transport priorities as and when required. We have also requested that any renewal of the Clouds resource consents include provision that it be moved off Queens Wharf once the Convention Centre is complete and operational.</p>

Committee Structure

The CCRG committee is currently organised around the roles and functional areas below. The meeting will need to decide if they wish to continue with the five key roles recommended for the 2023/2024 CCRG year –

Chairperson – primary roles are our relationships with the Auckland Council family and meeting structure.

Deputy Chairperson – primary roles are to support/deputise for the chair and communication with members.

Secretary – primary roles are to prepare agendas/minutes and organize events.

Treasurer – primary roles are to keep accurate financial records and recommend revenue generating activities.

Membership – primary role is to maintain a membership database, annual sub invoicing and contact with members.

Media – primary role is to prepare media releases for Chair/Deputy Chair and organize corporate events to promote CCRG.

Enforcement Liaison – primary role is to be the CCRG contact person with the WLB re traffic, alcohol and noise issues.

CCRG Position Statements

The following are our current Position Statements based on the Auckland Plan, and no changes are recommended for the coming year.

Belonging and Participating

The city centre is our home, it is where we belong, participate, eat, play and recreate - we are therefore the most vested in building a world class space for all.

Māori Identity and Wellbeing

CCRG will actively support the integration of Māori values into council planning, decision-making and delivery.

Homes and Places

Quality homes and great public spaces are the identifiers of cities – these are the places we all enjoy, remember, photograph, meet others, relax and play in, irrespective of which city we find them.

Transport and Access

CCRG will advocate for safe and reliable access for everyone with pedestrians, cyclists, micro-mobility, public transport, and service delivery having priority for all transport related decisions in the city centre.

Environment and Cultural Heritage

To ensure a healthy environment for all generations Do No Harm is CCRG's first development principle. Auckland's ability to understand, appreciate and celebrate our own, and other cultures and heritage, is the key to our economic future.

Opportunity and Prosperity.

CCRG supports the many learning institutions within the city centre in their lead role as developers of innovation, technology and entrepreneurship that will drive opportunities for all.

Governance

Open and transparent governance practices provide the essential structure that underpins the legitimacy of public sector leadership.

My thanks and appreciation to all of our committee and the many active members who support the work we do. A HUGE thank you to Adam, as our Deputy Chairperson for the work he does to keep the wheels turning on much of the CCRG essential processes.

Our focus for the coming year needs to be expanding our resident database and raising revenue. Very constructive discussion are taking place currently on both of these initiatives and a verbal update will be provided on these at the meeting.

Ngā mihi nui
Noelene Buckland
Chair, CCRG.